

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 748

By Parkinson

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Bishop Aron Bond Hopkins of Memphis.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Bishop Aron Bond Hopkins of Memphis, a visionary, pastor, teacher, overseer, and bishop; and

WHEREAS, born on October 12, 1943, in Ellendale, Bishop Hopkins was the son of Mary Lou Hopkins and Singleton Hopkins, Sr., and was raised with his siblings R.L., Sr., Singleton, Jr., Gussie, Thelma, Glenda, Margrett, Katherine, Robert, Tommy Lee, Millie, Lillie, and Jessie; and

WHEREAS, he gave his life to the Lord in April 1963 during a spiritual revival led by Missionary Gertrude McMullen at Paradise Church of God in Christ (COGIC) and accepted the call to ministry shortly thereafter; and

WHEREAS, Bishop Hopkins served as a minister for many years under the leadership of Elder Wooten, pastor of Paradise COGIC, and later Elder Nathaniel Swift, his father-in-law and pastor of Washington Chapel COGIC; and

WHEREAS, in response to the direction of the Holy Spirit, Bishop Hopkins started his own ministry in 1990 called New Covenant Outreach Ministries; and

WHEREAS, Bishop Hopkins opened the doors of the building housing the New Covenant Outreach Ministries in 1995; the space has now expanded to 26.7 acres of property that includes the current church building, community outreach and recreational property, and a garden; and

WHEREAS, Bishop Hopkins faithfully led New Covenant Outreach Ministries, shepherding many educational, philanthropic, agricultural, and community-centered initiatives in the Raleigh-Frayer area and upholding both the name and vision of the church; and

WHEREAS, he was also loyally affiliated with local ministries in Memphis and international ministries in Nigeria, Uganda, and Kenya, serving in various capacities as an organizational leader, an advisor, a teacher, an elder, and a ministry partner; and

WHEREAS, consecrated as a bishop in 2005 by Bishop Thomas K. Bethany, presiding bishop at Holiness Outreach Ministries Association, Bishop Hopkins was undoubtedly committed to spiritual growth and servanthood as evidenced by his membership in the organization and service under Bishop Bethany; and

WHEREAS, Bishop Hopkins was endlessly devoted to his wife, First Lady Geneva Hopkins, to whom he had been married for fifty years after fervently seeking the Lord in the early years of his ministry for a wife and partner in life and service to God; and

WHEREAS, he was also a dependable and adoring father to Genene and Sondra, grandfather to LaShundra, Monica, LaMonte, and Mariah, and great-grandfather to Myra, Samuel, and Malaya; and

WHEREAS, Bishop Hopkins labored tirelessly for more than five decades as a minister and servant of the Lord Jesus Christ before transitioning to his new home in heaven, and he should be remembered for his many contributions and the example he set for others; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Bishop Aron Bond Hopkins, reflecting fondly upon his resolute service to God and humanity.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we extend our sympathy and condolences to the family and many friends of Bishop Hopkins.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.